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SECURITY INFORMATION

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FAR EAST

1. French bank official reportedly sees Mao Tse-tung: Jean Laurent, managing director of the Banque de L'Indochine, allegedly protested to Mao Tse-tung recently about restrictions imposed on the bank's employees in China. Mao advised Laurent that the restrictions could not be lifted unless Chinese dollar assets amounting to \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000, presently frozen in the United States with the French-American Banking Corporation, were released. [REDACTED] FOR CRITICAL SECURITY REASONS this report is not to be further transmitted within the United States, or beyond the borders of the United States, without the express permission of the releasing office.)

Comment: It is extremely unusual for a Westerner to be able to talk directly to Mao.

The French Foreign Office asked the American Embassy in Paris last July if the United States would unblock the \$5,827,712 held here through the Banque de L'Indochine, because the Chinese Communists would not release French nationals now in China unless these funds were forthcoming.

This proposal was unacceptable to the Departments of State and Treasury.

LATIN AMERICA

2. Czechoslovak Legation in Mexico reportedly helps finance Latin American labor group: The Czechoslovak Minister in Mexico is reliably reported to have personally delivered \$6,000 in cash to Vincente Lombardo Toledano in April 1951 for the use of the Latin American Confederation of Workers (CTAL). He had allegedly withdrawn the money from the Banco de Mexico, which had received it from the State Bank in Prague. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The CTAL, of which Lombardo Toledano is President, is an affiliate of the Communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions. It regularly contributes to Communist-dominated groups in several Latin American countries and has often been reported receiving financial support from WFTU headquarters in Vienna. This, however, is the first report of direct financial assistance from an Orbit embassy.

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